

Subpart B—Use of Military Forces in Civil Defense, Civil Disturbances, and Disasters

§ 809a.5 Definitions.

(a) *Emergencies*. These are conditions which affect public welfare and occur as a result of enemy attack, insurrection, civil disturbances, earthquake, fire, flood, or other public disasters which endanger life and property or disrupt the usual process of government. The term “emergency” includes any or all of the conditions explained in this section.

(b) *Civil defense emergency*. This is a disaster situation resulting from devastation created by an enemy attack and requiring emergency operations during and following attack. It may also be proclaimed by appropriate authority in anticipation of an attack.

(c) *Civil disturbances*. These are group acts of violence or disorder prejudicial to public law and order including those which follow a major disaster. They include riots, acts of violence, insurrections, unlawful obstructions or assemblages, or other disorders.

(d) *Major disaster*. Any flood, fire, hurricane, or other catastrophe which, in the determination of the President, is or threatens to be of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant disaster assistance by the Federal Government to supplement the efforts and available resources of the State and local governments in alleviating the damage, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

[33 FR 4462, Mar. 13, 1968, as amended at 37 FR 18728, Sept. 15, 1972; 37 FR 20243, Sept. 28, 1972]

§ 809a.6 Base policies and laws.

This subpart contains policies on the use of Air Force military personnel in civil disturbances and disasters. The more important laws concerning military aid to civil authorities are also summarized.

(a) The Air Force gives military assistance to civil authorities in civil defense or civil disturbances and disasters only when such assistance is requested or directed. Commanders will not undertake such assistance without authority, unless the overruling demands of humanity compel immediate

action to protect life and property and to restore order.

(b) The military service having available resources nearest the affected area is responsible for providing initial assistance to civil authorities in emergencies. Subsequent operations are to be according to the mutual agreement between the senior service commanders concerned.

(c) The protection of life and property and the maintenance of law and order within the territorial jurisdiction of any State is the primary responsibility of State and local authorities. It is well-established U.S. Government policy that intervention with military forces takes place only after State and local authorities have used their own forces and are unable to control the situation, or when they do not take appropriate action.

[33 FR 4462, Mar. 13, 1968]

§ 809a.7 Conditions for use of Air Force resources.

This part is not intended to extend Air Force responsibilities in emergencies to generate additional resources (manpower, materiel, facilities, etc.) requirements, or encourage participation in such operations at the expense of the Air Force primary mission. It is a guide for the employment of Air Force resources when:

(a) A disaster or disturbance occurs in areas in which the U.S. Air Force is the executive agent of the United States.

(b) A disaster or disturbance occurs in areas that are remote from an Army installation but near an Air Force installation, thereby necessitating Air Force assumption of responsibility pending arrival of Army personnel.

(c) The overriding demand of conditions resulting from a natural disaster compels immediate action to protect life and property and to restore order.

[33 FR 4462, Mar. 13, 1968, as amended at 37 FR 18728, Sept. 15, 1972]

§ 809a.8 Military Commanders' responsibilities.

(a) Civilians in the affected area will be informed of the rules of conduct and other restrictive measures to be enforced by the military. These will be